MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 FEBRUARY 1982

Lebanon

The hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner at Beirut airport by supporters of Imam Musa as-Sadr ended early on 25 February, 9 hours after the plane was seized upon arrival from Libya, Beirut radio reported. The radio said the hijackers surrendered to Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) in return for a promise that the question of Musa as-Sadr will be raised at the United Nations, the International Court of Justice and the Arab League, but AFP said the hijackers escaped by fading into crowds at the airport. AFP noted that among the freed passengers was George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, which has frequently clashed with Shi'ite militiamen. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that a spokesman for the Sons of the South movement said his organization planned the hijacking. The radio also carried an Amal movement statement denouncing the hijacking.

Beirut radio cited sources close to the hijackers as sying they wanted to fly to Tehran, but Tehran radio broadcast an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement condemning the hijacking and announcing the closure of Iranian airspace to the plane. According to Beirut radio, the operation was led by Hamzah, the hijacker of a Libyan airliner last December.

Syria

Ba'th Party Assistant Regional Secretary General Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah told a meeting of party officials, provincial governors and popular organization chiefs that the search for Muslim Brotherhood hideouts in Hamah has ended, Damascus radio reported. Asserting that security forces are now in complete control, he said life is returning to normal in Hamah. Voice of Lebanon said Hamah had suffered massive devastation and was without electricity and water. It added that the authorities had buried hundreds in a mass grave.

In an interview with Italian television broadcast by Damascus radio, President Hafiz al-Asad said documents captured from the Muslim Brotherhood prove they are instigated by foreign quarters. Claiming that the Syrian Government never felt threatened by the events in Hamah, Al-Asad said he almost pitied those who had pinned their hopes on the Muslim Brotherhood gangs there.

In an interview broadcast by Damascus radio on 25 February, a Hamah Ba'th Party official recounted in detail the events of 3 February, naming some of his colleagues who were killed by the Muslim Brotherhood. He said modern Soviet and U.S. arms as well as Iraqi currency, had been captured from the Brotherhood.

Egypt

Shamir Cairo Talks -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met in Cairo with Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Cairo radio reported. The two agreed on the importance of continuing the autonomy talks now and after Israel withdraws from Sinai. According to Jerusalem radio, Muhyi ad-Din told Shamir that if any change occurs in Egypt's relations with Israel after the Sinai withdrawal, it will be for the better. However, the radio said, differences persist on how to accelerate the autonomy negotiations and demarcate the border in Rafah and the Elat area. Muhyi ad-Din rejected Shamir's proposal to put off discussing the Jerusalem issue, the radio added. Earlier, Shamir told the radio that he wants to return home with a clear announcement that the autonomy negotiations will continue without breaks. Shamir also said he would like to give fresh impetus to normalization issues that have been agreed upon but not implemented. President Husni Mubarak is likely to visit Israel on 16-17 March, according to the same radio report.

Ghali Interview -- In an interview with MAY, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali stressed Egypt's view that the Palestinian administrative council to be set up under the Camp David accords will be a temporary body intended to negotiate the ultimate future of the West Bank and Gaza. Ghali declined to say what Egypt would do if Israel annexed the West Bank and Gaza, asserting that Israel would not take this step and would continue to negotiate within the framework of the peace process.

Israel

Unity Government Proposal -- In a letter to Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, Prime Minister Menahem Begin proposed immediate talks on forming a national unity government, Jerusalem radio reported. According to the radio, the suggestion was received coolly by Labor Party members.

Sharon Request -- According to MA'ARIV, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon has asked the U.S. Government to change from a loan to a grant $240 million earmarked for completing the Negev airfields being constructed by U.S. firms.

Nabulus Meeting -- A political meeting at Nabulus town hall demanded the reopening of Bi'r Zayt University, expressed solidarity with the Golan Druze, and called for establishment of a PLO-led Palestinian state, 'AL HAMISHMAR reported. The paper noted that this was the first such meeting that the military government had not banned in a long time.

Libyan-Tunisian Relations

Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba held a private talk with Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Carthage, Tunis radio reported. At another meeting, described by the radio as outspoken, Al-Qadhdhafi, Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and a group of Tunisian intellectuals discussed Arab unity.

Gulf

A GCC interior ministers statement carried by WAKH revealed that during their 23-24 February Riyadh conference the ministers agreed to sign a comprehensive joint security agreement. They reviewed documents submitted by Bahrain on the "Iranian plot" and expressed full support for Bahrain. According to a statement issued by the GCC secretary general, broadcast by Riyadh radio, the draft security agreement will be drawn up by GCC experts and reviewed at a ministerial meeting to be held in October.

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DAILY REPORT

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GOVERNMENT DELAYS NEXT ROUND OF NO-WAR TALKS

BK250311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] According to news agency reports, India has deferred the visit of Foreign Secretary R.D. Sathe to Islamabad for talks on a no-war pact. This follows highly objectionable references to Kashmir made by Pakistan at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

The reports quote a Pakistan Embassy spokesman in New Delhi to say that the decision was conveyed to Pakistan Ambassador Abdul Sattar by Sathe last night.

Sathe was to visit Islamabad on the 1st of next month to continue discussions on the proposed no-war pact as decided by the foreign ministers of the two countries during their talks in New Delhi earlier this month.

It may be recalled that Sattar was summoned to the Foreign Office on Monday when India's strong protest against Pakistan's unwarranted and irrelevant reference to Kashmir at the UN Human Rights Commission was conveyed to him.

IRAN PROPOSES OIL AID MEASURES AT CONFERENCE

BK241149 Hong Kong AFP in English 1127 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] New Delhi, 24 Feb (AFP) -- Iran said today it had proposed measures at the ongoing 3-day conference of 44 developing nations here for effective coordination and mutual help in overcoming the oil problem facing the developing world.

Iranian delegation chief Mohammad Hoseyn Abeli told newsmen that the measures, which could have a far reaching effect in overcoming the oil problems of the developing countries, had been accepted and that a concret plan of action would be drawn up soon.

The Iranian proposal suggested mutual cooperation in meeting oil needs, exploration of oil sources, technological assistance and creation of oil refineries with mutual help.

"Iran is prepared to help the developing countries in every way to solve the problem of energy... We can have special agreement to help the oil needs of the developing countries," Mr Abeli, who is also the director general of economic affairs in the Iranian Government [title as received], said.

He said Iran, which produces about 1 million barrels of oil per day, would welcome a conference of developing countries on energy to give concrete shape to the energy cooperation plan. "The conference can be held in Tehran," he added.

Another Iranian proposal called for the establishment of an expert committee of developing countries on food.

"The committee can propose actions such as buying food from surplus and rich countrie and distribute the same in needy developing countries," he said, adding that the proposa had been accepted by the New Delhi conference.

Iran also proposed the setting up of a permanent secretariat to be headquartered here to give concrete shape to various proposals made at the ongoing conference. He said this proposal was being discussed and a final decision was awaited.

Emphasising the importance of consultations among developing nations, Mr Abeli said Iran would be happy to host such a conference next year in Tehran.

"We, the developing countries, ought to come out from the clutches of the developed and rich nations... Consultations like this are the only way we can achieve that aim," Mr Abeli said.

"We can help each other to accelerate developmental plans, as it has been proved in the past that help from the developed countries finally results in problems. Instead of becoming constructive, such help results in destruction," he said, citing the example of various projects in his own country.

"We are happy to note that the majority of developing countries understand this... Our effort should be to look for more cooperation and chalk out joint strategy so that we can negotiate with the rich nations with strength and conviction," he noted.

SOUTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE ENDS; REPORT ISSUED

OW241900 Hong Kong AFP in English 1742 GMT 24 Feb 82

[By Govindan Unny]

[Text] New Delhi, 24 Feb (AFP) -- The New Delhi consultations on North-South issues and South-South cooperation concluded here tonight with representatives of 44 developing countries calling for "fresh efforts and new vigour" for launching the global negotiations.

The three-day meeting, attended by developing nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America decided that the Group of 77, entrusted with the task of negotiating a global round with the industrialised North, should be "flexible in strategy and avoid getting bogged down in technicalities."

On the crucial issue of the Brenton Woods regulations affecting the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, the conference agreed that the Group of 77 should work out a compromise formula with the advanced countries to expedite the global round, a spokesman said.

Admitting that there were differences on the line to be taken by the Third World on the role of the specialised agencies like the World Bank and the Monetary Fund, the spokesman said the Group of 77 would have to decide to what extent there was unity. By and large the Group of 77 was being asked to adopt an attitude of "cooperation and confrontation" on the crucial issue, he added. There was also no proposal to take matters to a higher political level if a compromise could not be achieved in New York, the spokesman said.

On other aspects of the global round there was consensus in New Delhi that there should be no preliminary negotiations and there should be correct application of the original resolution of the UN General Assembly special session in 1980 stressing the need to convene the global round.

The full report of the New Delhi conference is to be released tomorrow but the spokesman read out to the press the excerpt contained in the report on the vital issue of global negotiations.

It said the delegates "emphasised that the Group of 77 should remain firm and flexible, firm in its commitments to the basic objectives of global negotiations as contained in (U.N.) Resolution 34/138 and flexible in its approach and strategy."

"The need for synchronising the position of the Group of 77 on issues dealt with in the context of the global negotiations and in the specialised bodies, particularly those of a technical nature such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, was stressed," it added.

The report also stated that "they were agreed that efforts should be made, concurrently, to achieve progress in areas of critical importance to developing countries, such as food, energy, financial flows and trade in the forthcoming conference of specialised agencies."

In a press statement on the conclusions reached at the meeting, the conference chairman said there was general feeling that far too much time had been lost in efforts to launch the global negotiations and the worst victims of the continuing impasse were the developing countries.

On the question of food, the conference emphasised the need for augmenting food production by adopting measures for promoting and establishing effective international food security system. It was agreed to pursue further an Indian suggestion for the setting up of a small agricultural coordinating group of experts from various regions. The objective was to see how developing countries could organise themselves by developing a matrix for agricultural self-reliance and food self-sufficiency based on the four major parameters -- need, potentials, technology and capital, the statement said.

On the question of energy, another major agenda item, there was emphasis on the over-riding necessity for developing indigenous energy resourses.

Noting that massive financial flows would be required for developing new and renewable sources of energy, the delegates thought that one of the possibilities was the establishment of an energy affiliate attached to the World Bank. As the creation of a new institution would take time, the statement said, there would be need for larger allocations through additional funding to be made available through existing financial institutions.

The meeting also decided that while some decisions and recommendations had been taken to alleviate financial burdens of oil-importing developing countries, greater efforts were required to ensure the necessary financial and technical flow.

As regards financial flows in the context of the North-South issues, the conference underlined the need for appropriate and concerted initiatives by developing countries at a political level to resist cut-backs in the level of contribution to the replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank. It was stressed that developing countries could hardly afford to wait or do without sufficient flows of concessional finance, particularly in critical areas like food and energy.

The conference took note, according to the chairman, of the outmoded concepts such as "graduation" defined on narrow technical grounds and designed to undermine the solidarity of the developing world being propagated by some developed countries.

It called for urgent and effective measures to assist developing countries to tide over the current crisis, he added.

In the area of trade, the participating countries deplored the walls of protectionism mounted by the developed world and called for expansion and diversification of exports from developing countries.

They felt that new initiatives were also required by developing countries in processing distribution and marketing of commodities.

Stating that the global system of trade preferences envisaged in the Caracas programme for economic cooperation among developing countries sought to promote enhanced trade, the participants agreed that efforts should be made to launch these negotiations during the current year itself.

On South-South cooperation, there was unanimity among the delegates that South-South cooperation was a major instrument in the promotion of individual and collective self-reliance.

While noting that there was the need to translate words into action, they felt that a greater political will was required to accelerate the pace of cooperation among developing countries. In this connection they recommended wide-ranging contacts among the leaders of business, commerce, industry, scientists, intellectuals, writers and journalists.

As lack of financial resources was a constraint in South-South cooperation, the delegates agreed to consider an Indian proposal for setting up a multilateral financing authority on the basis of voluntary contribution by interested countries. India accepted to further process this proposal by convening a meeting of experts so that a precise and detailed scheme could be submitted to the Group of 77.

The meeting also agreed to look into Sri Lankan and Kuwait suggestions regarding a new institutional framework for investment based on joint ventures in developing countries at the inter-governmental coordinations committee for economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC) to be held in Manila in August.

TANZANIA'S NYERERE LEAVES FOR BOMBAY, HOME

BK241033 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania was given an affectionate sendoff when he left for Bombay this morning. He was seen off at Delhi airport among others by the president, the prime minister and some of her Cabinet colleagues.

The Tanzanian president is scheduled to leave Bombay for home tomorrow morning at the conclusion of his 5-day state visit to India.

JORDANIAN CROWN PRINCE PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT

BK181244 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Crown Prince Hasan Talal and Princess Tharwat of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan arrived in New Delhi this evening on a week's state visit to India. They were received at the airport by Vice President M. Hidayatullah.

Meeting With Rao

BK200653 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal of Jordan called on External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao yesterday and had wide-ranging discussions on the international situation. After the 30-minute meeting, the prince told newsmen that he had a useful exchange of views. He also conveyed Jordan's appreciation of India's role in the nonaligned group for defusing tension arising out of the Iran-Iraq war.

Report on Activities

JN192047 Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan began his talks with senior Indian officials in New Delhi today. Prince Hasan met today with Indian President Sanjiva Reddy in the presence of Her Highness Princess Tharwat, the chief justice, the minister of the occupied territories affairs and the Jordanian ambassador in India.

At noon today, Prince Hasan met with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The meeting was followed by a working dinner given by Mrs Gandhi in honor of Prince Hasan and Princess Tharwat. In the afternoon, his highness met with the Indian foreign minister. Prince Hasan's talks with the Indian officials dealt with bilateral relations and joint economic and trade cooperation between Jordan and India. The talks also dealt with major international issues in general and the Middle East problem in particular. Prince Hasan expressed Jordan's and Arab appreciation of India's support for the Arab cause, particularly India's UN vote for imposing sanctions against Israel for its annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. His highness also explained to the Indian officials the Israeli attempt to obliterate the Arab identity in the occupied land.

He also affirmed that Israel's possession of a nuclear bomb is a fact that was made clear by U.S. Senators Charles Percy and John Glenn. Prince Hasan also explained Jordan's commitment to keeping the Gulf area independent and neutral, leaving the responsibility of its defense to its states.

Early this evening, Prince Hasan received the heads of Arab diplomatic missions in New Delhi. During the meeting, his highness explained the developments in the Arab area and the need to confront the designs against the Arab nation.

Early today, his highness called on the memorial of former Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi where he laid a wreath of flowers.

Departure 24 Feb

BK241257 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Prince Hasan ibn Talal and Princess Tharwat of Jordan left New Delhi today after a weeklong visit to India.

ROK FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDES NEW DELHI TALKS

Meeting With Gandhi

BK191559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Foreign Minister of South Korea No Sin-yong called on Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi today. He handed over a message from President Chon Tu-hwan to the prime minister. The message expressed South Korea's desire to deepen the economic relations with India.

Earlier, the South Korean foreign minister called on President Reddy.

Economic Cooperation Talks

BK201650 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] India and South Korea have agreed to enlarge the field of economic cooperation. The visiting South Korean foreign minister, No Sin-yong, told newsmen in New Delhi today that there is scope to achieve a threefold increase in their trade turnover in the next few years. It is likely to touch the level of $1 billion from the current size of over $300 million.

Mr No said he had proposed to Indian leaders a bilateral agreement to avoid double taxation. Two of the proposals made by him relate to investment guarantees and visa exemptions.

Mr No disclosed that businessmen and experts from India and South Korea will meet in New Delhi next month. Seoul is at present buying about 4 million tons of iron ore from India every year. With the second steel plant coming up, they need more iron ore.

The foreign minister said that South Korea can build ships for India.

Departure for Paris

BK211005 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] South Korean Foreign Minister No Sin-yong left New Delhi this morning for Paris at the end of his 5-day visit to India. He was seen off at the airport by External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao and others.

'OFFICIAL CIRCLES' ON INDIAN PROTEST ON KASHMIR

BK241029 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Official circles in Pakistan have expressed surprise at the news put out by All-India Radio that India has lodged a protest with Pakistan because of a reference of the status of Jammu and Kashmir made by the representative of Pakistan in the Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

These circles stated that the position of Pakistan on the question of Jammu and Kashmir is well known and needs no reiteration. The Pakistan delegate had done no more than calling attention to the need for a final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir problem under the spirit of the Simla Agreement.

The official circles said that a protest against such a statement is untenable since the Simla Agreement clearly recognizes the position of both sides on this question. They said in fact a clear agreement between the two countries to seek a final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute as part of the process of normalization [had been] envisaged in the Simla Agreement.

ACTIVITIES OF PRC GOOD-WILL DELEGATION REPORTED

Meeting With Shahi

BK201550 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Wang Bingnan, president of the Chinese people's association for friendship with foreign countries, called on Foreign Minister [as heard] Agha Shahi in Islamabad today. Wang Bingnan, who is visiting Pakistan on the invitation of the foreign minister, exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. The regional situation was also discussed during the talks, which touched on the issues of Afghanistan and Kampuchea. He also delivered a message from Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Huang Hua expressing concern over Shahi's health and wishing him a speedy recovery.

Huang Hua has invited Shahi to visit China and the invitation has been accepted.

Banquet Speeches

BK211422 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Foreign Minister [as heard] Agha Shahi has said that Pakistan and China have consistently pursued a policy of promoting international peace and, more importantly, of promoting and consolidating friendly relations with neighboring countries.

Speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the visiting president of the Chinese people's association for friendship with foreign countries, Wang Bingnan, in Islamabad on Saturday [20 February], he expressed satisfaction that a new and positive trend is beginning to emerge in the region and that sincere efforts are being made to end an era of conflict and vonfrontation.

The foreign minister said: The countries in the region, which are divided by ideological differences with regard to disputes and bilateral interests, are now trying their best to establish new relations and strenthen existing ones based on harmony and bilateral cooperation. Pakistan has also made its contribution toward this development by its recent offer of a nonagression pact to India. He expressed the hope that the forthcoming secretary-level talks in Islamabad would help in evolving a mutually acceptable code of action to give concrete shape to the nonaggression pact.

He appreciated China's understanding of and outlook on Pakistan's foreign policy, which has avoided reliance on military alliances and helped Pakistan's formal inclusion in the nonaligned movement.

Pakistan has been able to reorder its international relations in conformity with the principles of this movement without impairing its ties with its former allies.

He said: We are gratified that this nonaligned policy has received wide acclaim within the country and enhanced the respect in which Pakistan is held in the world. This is also a source of strength for our security.

The foreign minister said: In light of past experiences and given current developments, we feel that our relations with the two superpowers should be gaged on respect for us as members of the Nonaligned Movement because all Islamic nations, in addition to most of the Third World countries, are the members of the Nonaligned Movement.

He said: Pakistan has now moved into the mainstream of international life by conscious decisions based not on doctrinaire predilection but on a realistic assessment of its present geopolitical and security situation.

Agha Shahi thanked China for the liberal assistance which it is providing to Pakistan to achieve self-reliance in major fields of our national economy. He said China's assistance has not only helped in reducing its reliance on foreign resources but also in establishing an infrastructure for the country's industrial development and for strengthening its defense capability.

Wang Bingnan said in his speech that we are very much pleased to see Pakistan's success in the development of its national economy. He congratulated Pakistan on its achievements as a member of the Nonaligned Movement and prayed for further strengthening of friendship between the two countries.

Meeting With Haq

BK220326 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq expressed the hope that the current visit of the Chinese good-will delegation will further promote the existing friendly relations between the people of Pakistan and China. He made this observation when the chinese delegation, headed by Wang Bingnan, called on him in Rawalpindi last evening. The president highly commended the contribution made by Wang Bingnan to broaden people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

Wang Bingnan said that he was greatly impressed by the spirit of friendship shown by the people of Pakistan. The delegation exchanged views with the president on regional and bilateral matters of mutual interest. The foreign secretary and Pakistan ambassador to China were also present on the occasion.

Earlier, the Chinese delegation visited the heavy mechanical complex in Taxilla. The delegation also attended a reception hosted in honor of them by the All-Pakistan-China Friendship Association. Speaking on the occasion, the delegation leader said the friendship between the two countries dated back to ancient times and has strengthened with the passage of time. He referred to the heavy mechanical complex and the Karakoram Highway and said these reflect the close friendship between the two countries.

VELAYATI ON OIL, RELATIONS WITH U.S., ARABS

PM221419 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 16 Feb 82 p 5

["B.A." report on "exclusive" interview granted to EL MOUDJAHID in Algeria by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati: "Iran on the Path of Economic Independence" -- date not given]

[Text] "Iran has not lowered its oil price; that is propaganda put about by some countries which are producing very large quantities and which want to advocate that policy to enable the consumer countries to increase their stocks to the detriment of the producers themselves. Those consumers already have reserves which far exceed their real needs."

Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who has been in our country for 2 days, also said in an exclusive interview with EL MOUDJAHID that "the progressive oil-producing countries must unite to hinder and oppose the oil-producing countries which have direct or indirect interests with imperialism." The Iranian minister wants this anti-imperialist struggle to imitate the struggle of the Iranian people who, he stated, "have driven from their territory tens of thousands of U.S. agents who were exploiting Iran's wealth."

"Even today," the diplomat said, "the Americans have not yet implemented and are refusing to implement the Algiers agreements regarding the restoration of the Iranian people's property. Deals which were concluded in the shah's days and which were paid for in Washington have not been honored and the United States is refusing to hand back our money.

Three years after the proclamation of the Islamic Republic "our country is anxious to assert its economic independence and not to base its development solely on oil resources. After passing through a period in which some factions tried to seize power, which is natural after any revolution, the republic is gradually regaining its political and economic stability."

Iran, which is enmeshed in contradictions inherent in "the change," as Minister Velayati stated, and in a very painful and virtually fratricidal border conflict, is waging an anti-imperialist battle which claims to be a vanguard battle and advocates strict nonalignment. With regard to its conflict with Iraq, the head of Iranian diplomacy stated: "We Iranians are a peaceful people. It was not we who broke the Algiers agreement. Our territory is now occupied. We are demanding nothing other than the withdrawal of troops from our territory and an end to the war -- in other words, a return to the situation which prevailed on the borders before this war. In addition, we feel entitled to demand that the aggressor compensate us for all the damage it has caused. To that end, an international commission of enquiry can carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections to establish the extent of the damage. These are our conditions for any return to peace and any mediator should take these demands into account."

Iran, which regards itself as involved in the Middle East problem and, in particular, feels solidarity with the struggle of the Arab peoples, particularly the Palestinian people, upholds positions which are very close to those of the steadfastness front countries. "We have expressed our viewpoint in all forums. Recently, after the occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights, we once again placed all our potential at Syria's disposal, and our viewpoint expressed at the United Nations was greatly welcomed and appreciated." However, we are convinced that solutions like Camp David, among others, "are futile and that only direct confrontation with the Israelis will be able to bring about a solution."

The Iranians, who follow Arab problems very closely, have great respect for our country, characterized by admiration for our people and our armed revolution.

For instance, it was with some anxiety that Iranian diplomacy noted Mr Alexander Haig's recent visit to Morocco and the results which emerged from it. "That proves," Mr Velayati said, "that the Americans are trying to support certain countries and back their expansionist designs. They are trying to dig themselves into some Arab and Muslim countries. Mr Haig's visit to Morocco is a plot against the Algerian, Mauritanian and Saharan peoples. It gives Hassan II the opportunity to play the role of gendarme in the region."

VELAYATI INTERVIEWED ON N. AFRICA TRIP

LD231910 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs, who traveled to Algeria, Libya, Senegal and Mauritania, leading a delegation of officials from the Islamic Republic of Iran, returned to Tehran this afternoon. At Mehrabad Airport we was welcomed by Mr Ahmad 'Azizi, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and several under secretaries and officials from that ministry.

Following his return to Tehran Mr Velayati granted an interview to a Central News Unit correspondent and replied to his questions on various issues. We now draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Velayati, could you please tell us what is your impression of your 10-day visit to Libya, Algeria and Mauritania, and your [words indistinct] cultural (?impression) which you gained of these countries?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The aim of our traveling to the North African countries was to create close ties with the Muslim, nonaligned and progressive countries, and in this connection we traveled to Algeria and Libya, and also to the Sahara and Mauritania and, we believe, praise be to God, we accepted the invitations which we had received. [sentence as heard] I believe that the only way for the salvation of the Muslim countries and the Muslims in general from the superpowers and the world-devouring powers lies in their unity with one another. In other words, if we were determined to confront the United States and its subservient agents, Israel and other agents of that arch-Satan in the world and other superpowers, we would have no course other than unity among the Islamic countries. It is natural that we should give priority to our ties with such countries as Libya, Algeria, the Saharan Democratic Republic and Mauritania, which is why we went to these four countries during this trip.

[Question] [Words indistinct] the question of Iran's joining the [word indistinct]. Could you tell us whether you discussed this during your visit?

[Answer] Since the formation of our foreign policy we have supported the steadfastness front, and one of the prime aims of this trip was to support the steadfastness front. The very role of concluding cultural and economic agreements is aimed at an increasing solidarity with these fronts. Our presence there and our physical support for the anti-imperialist stance of these countries demonstrates that we support that front both in words and in deeds.

[question indistinct]

[Answer] Anyone who has not traveled to the Sahara, has not been among the Saharan fighters, has not met the Muslim people of the Sahara and has not seen their decisive resolve for obtaining independence and safeguarding their honor would not understand the meaning of the Polisario Front and the Saharan Republic and, contrary to propaganda disseminated abroad, there are people there who are fully dedicated to Islam. And the government which has been set up there, the so-called ad interim government which has been set up, is a government which is totally committed to Islam.

We have witnessed this at close quarters; we have even traveled to the very heart of the Sahara, and we even visited one of the military bases of the Saharan fighters, the place where clashes take place between the Saharan fighters and the mercenaries of Hassan, the king of Morocco. The determined faces of the Saharan fighters have indeed convinced us more than ever that this people will eventually attain final victory.

As for Mauritania, in view of the fact that the people of Mauritania are a Muslim people and are fighting for their own independence and terminating their dependence on the superpowers, it is natural that one should support that Muslim country and people. There is no better way than being present in those countries and observing the realities at close quarters. We went there, we made these observations and had fruitful talks with our Mauritanian brothers there. It was decided that these visits should continue and, God willing, I believe that these visits would be conducive to strengthening friendship between the two countries of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. In view of the fact that Mauritania is being subjected to various plots hatched by the colonialist powers of the world it needs greater support. [end recording]

In reply to a question on the issues discussed and the nature of his talks with the Turkish minister of foreign affairs, Mr Velayati said: We have often declared that in our foreign policy we give priority to the neighboring Islamic and nonaligned countries, and Turkey is one of those countries that is both Muslim and a neighbor. We wish to live in peace and have good relations with that country, and our political aims are to expand trade and economic political relations between the two neighboring countries; our talks with the Turkish foreign minister, which lasted for hours, were extremely useful and fruitful.

KHAMENE'I ON RELATIONS WITH TURKEY, OPPOSITION

NC250837 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 22 Feb 82 pp 1, 11

[First of two installments of an interview granted by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to CUMHURIYET correspondent Cengiz Candar in Tehran -- date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: How do you view Turkey? What meaning does Turkey convey to you?

Answer: Above everything else, Turkey is a neighboring country. What is more, it is a Muslim country.

Question: Do you find the level of Turkish-Iranian relations satisfactory? What do you think should be done to enhance these relations?

Answer: Relations between the two countries are healthy. We wish to develop these relations in the economic and political fields.

Question: What are your views on the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force [RDF]? Do you share the view that the aim of this force is to counter any probable intervention by the Soviet Union in the Persian Gulf?

Answer: You may think we are prejudiced in this respect, but the least this RDF will oppose is the Soviet intervention in the Persian Gulf. The main target of the RDF is the Islamic revolution.

Question: Do you have a feeling that Turkey is included in the RDF?

Answer: We hope the peoples of the area will resist the increasing U.S. political and military intervention. We advise all these countries not to encourage thes presence of a greater U.S. military force than exists at present. Naturally, this is also the advice we would give Turkey. The close relations between the present government in Turkey and the United States brings to mind the possibility of Turkey's participation in the RDF. But we hope this possibility will never materialize.

Question: In your interview with IRNA you have described the recent visits Weinberger and Haig paid to the area as exploring the possibility of halting Islam and the Islamic revolution. U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger visited Turkey recently. Haig, too, is expected to do the same. Under these circumstances, do you believe that they are trying to instill animosity for Iran in the Turkish people?

Answer: No matter what happens, we have no doubt at all that the Americans will never miss an opportunity to create an obstacle in the way of the culture of the Islamic revolution. If the Turkish Government resists American demands to participate in the RDF, then the Americans will do everything possible to secure the support of this next-door neighbor, Turkey, for the RDF. Let me repeat again: We hope that the Turkish Government will not permit greater American presence than what exists today in Turkey.

Question: There is a question which is not satisfactorily answered: How is it that in an Islamic revolutionary country like Iran, Bani-Sadr, whom you characterize as "liberal and West-oriented" could be elected as Iran's first president? How do you explain the 10 million votes he obtained in the elections? Was Bani-Sadr a liberal and West-oriented from the beginning? If he was, how could he be elected a president in an Islamic republic built on an Islamic revolution? If he changed later, why and under what conditions did this change come about?

Answer: You are right in feeling surprised. You must realize that if the enemy is visible, you do not make a mistake about him. But if hypocrisy camouflages the truth, then things are different. This is what has happened in Iran in connection with Bani-Sadr. At first he presented himself as a Muslim and a revolutionary so as to prepare himself for the presidency. Through the experience acquired in connection with his election and then escape, our people have learned to make fewer mistakes.

Question: The Islamic Republic is continually criticized because of the executions. What do you say about this in your capacity as the president and as a spiritual leader?

Answer: The problem regarding the executions is that the foreign news media do not reflect the true number of people executed, nor do they explain the reasons. There are fewer executions than foreign propaganda alleges. The reason for these executions has never been political vengeance as the foreign news media allege.

Question: What can you say about the internal stability of your country?

Answer: We believe that internal stability is increasing day by day. The chaos planned by our enemies and, I must say, the unprecedented wave of terrorism unleashed in Iran has failed to upset our internal stability. Thanks to the vigilance of the public and the experience acquired by the state organs in the meantime, stability will continue to increase.

KHAMENE'I SENDS MESSAGE TO AL-QADHDHAFI

LD231814 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Feb 82

["Text" of message sent by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, chief of state of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Dear brother, Your Excellency Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, president [as heard] of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

I am extremely grateful for your affectionate message on the occasion of the beginning of the fourth year of Iran's glorious Islamic revolution. The Islamic revolution has given us the opportunity to know our brothers and friends.

Here, the revolutionary and fraternal nation of Libya has played and continues to play an excellent role.

Brother president, a mere look at the situation in the sensitive region of the Middle East and the observation of the existence of the cancerous tumor of imperialism, that is, usurping Israel, in the heart of the Muslim-inhabited countries is sufficient to convince one of the significance of unity of ranks of the Muslims. Undoubtedly, it would be thanks to that unity that one could crush the Western-backed nefarious Zionist enemy and liberate dear Jerusalem and other usurped territories.

Nurturing the hope that the bilateral relations between our two countries will continue to expand every day while serving the interests of our nations I take this opportunity to wish you success in serving your people. I wish the fraternal nation of Libya happiness and good fortune.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX TALKS WITH JAPAN RESUME

LD242352 Tehran IRNA in English 1921 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 24 Feb (IRNA) -- The third round of talks on the construction of the petrochemical complex of Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni started this morning in Tehran between the Iranian and Japanese partners. The deputy oil minister in petrochemical affairs, Mostafa Taheri Najafabadi, and a number of experts in petrochemicals, as well as nine Japanese experts, are participating in the talks. The negotiations will resume talks on the joint (?IJPC) project which was supposed to begin production in Jan 1980 following an agreement made by the Japanese contractors and the former regime in April 1973. However, the Japanese abandoned the project after the Islamic revolution.

Iran, determined to complete the project, requested the Japanese to return, which they did in June 1980, only to abandon it again with the outbreak of the war. Japan offered a 4.2-billion-dollar proposal to complete the project despite Iran's ceiling price of 3.5 billion dollars, before announcing their [word indistinct] to completely withdraw from the agreement.

ARDABILI ON JUDICIARY, SECURITY AFFAIRS

GF231120 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 6 Feb 82 pp 1-3

[Final installment of exclusive interview by unidentified ETTELA'AT correspondent with Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, state public prosecutor -- date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is the method of inspecting cities and such at present? Is there any particular investigative agency with branches in cities that are looking into events?

[Answer] There are at present three investigating commissions in seven provinces. Right now, as I speak, there are investigators in seven provinces.

[Question] What must people do when they have a complaint?

[Answer] The investigators are popular forces and are, therefore, among the people. They are in contact with the people. When they go to investigate they go as a commission, not individually. The commission consists of mullahs, clerical students, judges, government exployees, accountants and responsible people. This is the commission.

[Question] There is talk in some quarters that secret investigations are being conducted in addition to open ones. Is this correct?

[Answer] Yes, secret investigations will also be conducted. Let us first get the open investigations going. They [not further specified] do not even stand for this at times.

[Question] Even proposing such investigations will end many things?

[Answer] Yes, this is bound to happen.

[Question] Secret investigations -- especially of those in authority?

[Answer] If I tell you, then it will no longer be a secret!

[Question] In the words of His Holiness 'Ali, peace be upon him and his scion, the announcement itself will be effective.

[Answer] Well, the telling will reveal the secret!

[Question] Right now there are some political groups that clearly oppose the Islamic government. Which group's supporters can be arrested simply because they are active supporters and which ones cannot be arrested?

[Answer] Those carrying out military activities.

[Question] Only those?

[Answer] Those who have announced their armed struggle against the regime, or those who have not announced this but are in fact actively carrying out armed struggle -- those who do things against the law.

[Question] Let us discuss economic matters. On the subject of Article 49 of the Constitution concerning confiscation of property unlawfully obtained -- Mr Hashemi has stated that the preparation of the bill has been put into the hands of the judiciary. What has been done on this matter?

[Answer] This is not our responsibility. The Majlis passed it on to the government and the government turned it over to us. However, since we are all on the same side we accepted it. Some studies have been conducted. The important matter, however, is to implement the article. We need to know what is lawfully gained property and what is not. Everyone knows this. The important thing is to make this the law. Then there is the matter of what can be acted upon. There is no doubt that this is fundamental from the Islamic point of view. It is important and one of the bases of Islam. The laws on this should be clearly written and carried out. There is no doubt about this. However, some bills are held up at some point for special reasons, because there is always the question of place, time, economic and political matters and individuals which must be considered. The more we have patience and the more the plans are correctly implemented, the better off we will be.

[Question] This, in any case, is one article of the Constitution and everyone is waiting to see what is done about it.

[Answer] Look, during the former regime Western capitalism ruled. When capitalism wants to make a country dependent on it, it makes the judiciary and laws dependent on what is to its advantage. It is a complicated matter and the Supreme Judicial Council must review it. The Majlis judiciary commission is also looking into it. However, this does not mean that we will not implement plans because they are complex. The important thing is not to be hasty. Ample attention must be given to resolving problems. This matter is very complex. When the matter was looked into we found that the Western system had designed everything, even the judicial laws of the former capitalist system. Everything is connected to something else.

There is no doubt that in the Islamic government no laws contrary to Islam will remain. The law of Article 49 reads as such. There is also no doubt that the financial policies of the former regime did not comply with Islamic values. It was a Western capitalist system in its worst form -- that is, in the form of dependence and consumerism. Even when capitalism gave us an industry it was an assembly industry. There is one type of capitalism in which there are industrial centers. The former regime's capitalism was not like that. It was not only our economy which was like that either. As we said, when capitalism wants to make a country dependent on it, it does everything on that basis. It makes the judiciary and the law like that too.

Look at the law, for example. If someone gives someone a loan and that person delays in making payments then he will also have to pay damages for the delay. This seems reasonable on the surface. But let us see who gives the loan and who wants a loan and this changes the nature of things. If we were to divide the oppressor and the oppressed between these two poles, who is the oppressed and who the oppressor? It is obvious that the oppressed is in debt and the oppressor is owed. Who benefits from this law? The creditor. It is clearly to the advantage of the oppressor.

[Question] There is much talk about hoarding, rising prices and difficulties which we are facing at present. Recently the head of the guild court pointed out in an interview the many similar cases of hoarders fighting the government's efforts. The discovery of gold which was imported for alleged dental use and also the discovery of cigarettes and onions in great quantities clearly shows that the capitalist hoarders are operating actively against the government's efforts to ensure fair distribution of commodities and control prices. They suddenly hide goods out of the reach of consumers and, by this action, tie up every effort. They tie the hands of the officials.

First of all, we want to know whether we have inspectors and persons to inspect and identify the imams of infidels [as published] who are responsible for hoarding and trying to fish in troubled waters. Are there responsible inspectors to identify the main sources of hoarding, not only the small grocery shops? Second, the judicial system should impose severe punishments for hoarders who are not paying attention to warnings and notices.

[Answer] As you are aware, the judicial system is unable to impose punishments; the law should determine punishments. The judicial system can only work on the basis of laws approved by the authorities concerned. The judicial system is implementing the laws dealing with hoarding, profiteering, cheating and so on. It is doubtful if the revolution courts would or could handle these affairs and whether these problems are part of counter-revolutionary problems or not.

Are they doing these things for profiteering or do they want to topple [the government]? Obviously, it is the latter. This is to say that counterrevolutionary actions are carried out to topple the regime, and these actions come under the jurisdiction of the revolution court. It is not obvious that all these actions are politically motivated. Therefore, they should not be dealt with by the judicial machinery.

At the moment, the guilds court has an action group which is busy discovering hoarded and smuggled goods. The hoarders have been fined. Three days ago it was reported that a person imported stoves or something else and overcharged about 16 million tomans. Another imported something else and overcharged 8 million tomans. These persons have been fined and they were not small grocers. This problem exists at present and is under review.

[Question] If it is proved that this situation is the cause of concentration of wealth or production and distribution facilities in the hands of a number of capitalists, then what?

[Answer] I also mentioned this. The problem may be that a few people are in charge of a particular product or in charge of its production and distribution. This is often the case with foreign imported goods, and we are going to nationalize foreign trade. On the subject of the industry and internal production, which forms the biggest part of government's assets, it is not in the hands of a few. This leaves only agriculture and things like that. We should first settle planning and financial policies. No person or special group should be allowed to be put in charge of production and distribution of the people's essential goods. As I said, financial policies should be adjusted accordingly. Things should be done about this, and they are being done. There is also the matter of land reform which will be effective in agriculture.

[Question] As a whole, what is your opinion about criticism and the need for it in the media?

[Answer] It is natural that there should be criticism, but criticism without insult, constructive criticism, without lies. It is necessary.

[Question] When Bani-Sadr was still in office, if you remember, one night there was a debate about the retaliation bill and you said: In the name of God. I tell you -- ETTELA'AT newspaper -- that you are allowed to criticize the judiciary openly and in detail starting tomorrow. Just do not print lies or insults.

[Answer] Yes. It is the same now. I have repeatedly said so. It is not right for a person to ignore the opinions of others and reject them. It is wrong to reject anyone as soon as they criticize. This will create an explosion. This is a very bad attitude. We should all get used to listening to opposition. It is not right to tell others not to speak. Criticism is necessary.

[Question] Events in the country and tricks and treachery by those such as Bani-Sadr and the hypocrites who consider themselves the guardians of freedom and freedom seekers -- they pretended to criticize and tell the truth and then did all those things -- have unfortunately made anyone who may seek a reasonable answer or criticize or point out mistakes in a brotherly fashion immediately the target of suspicion. They want to know why, whose plot is this and whether they want to deal a blow.

[Answer] That is a wrong attitude. I have, or course, said that if in two people, two groups, one criticizes in a reasonable manner and the other answers in the same manner, then this can go on to the day of resurrection.

KHAMENE'I MEETS WITH ARMENIAN COMMUNITY LEADERS

LD241800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Arvak Manukian, Armenian archbishop of Tehran, and Mr Khaletian, Armenian deputy to the Islamic Consultative Assembly, accompanied by the head of the Armenian vicarage council, met and conferred with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this afternoon.

During this meeting, Mr Manukian first made some remarks about the situation of the Armenians and the freedom that they gained after the victory of the Islamic Republic. Mr Manukian submitted a check for about 6.5 million rials to the president. This check was donated by our Armenian compatriots from money saved for their new year [celebration] in order to help with the efforts of the war imposed upon Iran by Iraq.

Mr Khamene'i, during this meeting, while referring to the religious minorities' support for the government and the system of the Islamic Republic, praised the Armenians' cooperation before and after the victory of the Islamic revolution and during the imposed war. The president also stressed the need for even more unity among all followers of the divine religions in order to foil the conspiracies of internal and external enemies and the world arrogance.

The president reiterated: The enemy is trying to create some provocations among our Armenian compatriots, too. But certainly they will be neutralized through your vigilance and that of other responsible Armenian community leaders.

During this meeting, Mr Khaletian, while referring to the mental development of Armenian society, announced their decisive stand against a minigroup which pretends to be related to the Armenians. While rejecting any alleged links between them and the Armenians and while condemning their actions, he fully approved the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly with regard to neighboring countries.

At the end of this meeting, the head of the Armenian vicarage council also made some remarks.

DEFENSE, OTHER BUDGET ALLOCATIONS REPORTED

LD241308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] During today's Cabinet meeting, 5.455 billion rials were allocated to municipalities of 451 cities. Eleven billion rials were allocated to the Ministry of Defense for extra-ordinary military operations, 750 million rials for the housing foundation projects and 82 million rials for building new embassies in a number of countries.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 800

LD241742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Communique 800 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran continue their just battle until the total defeat of the enemy's aggressive army, according to God's order, and, by way of daily victories on the front of falsehood, they gain valuable results.

After the enemy's last counteroffensive in Tang-e Chazzabeh was foiled through the efforts of the combative personnel of the ground forces, guard brothers and popular forces, with the support of our artillery fire, the enemy, suffering numerous losses and casualties, retreated. Since yesterday morning the situation in this area has been calm, with only sporadic exchanges of fire. In the aforesaid area our forces are consolidating their positions, halting enemy movement and retaining the initiative. Losses suffered by the aggressive forces during the recent operations in Tang-e Chazzabeh include the destruction of 11 tanks, 20 personnel carriers and 2 ammunition-carrying vehicles.

On the Susangerd front, gunfire by the forces of Islam destroyed one 106-mm gun mounted on a vehicle and killed or wounded a number of Iraqi personnel.

In the western Dezful area, our combative personnel, defending their positions, set fire to one vehicle, one heavy machinegun and a number of enemy trenches and killed six enemy forces

The enemy suffered 5 dead or wounded on the Dasht-e 'Abbas front and 35 on the Shush and Reqabiyeh fronts. Four vehicles and one tank of the aggressors were also destroyed on the aforesaid fronts.

Throughout yesterday Abadan came under the fire of the enemy's heavy and long-range weapons; several residential areas were destroyed in this city and a number of people were wounded.

On the opposite bank of the Kraun River our forces captured four Iraqi soldiers and, opening fire on enemy positions in this area, inflicted losses and casualties.

On most of the western fronts of the country exchanges of fire continued and as a result of fire by our forces, enemy artillery fire was silenced and a number of enemy servicemen were killed or wounded.

In the course of the operations carried out on 22 February, five of the gendarmerie combatants and two combatants of the ground forces achieved the honor of martyrdom on the western and southern fronts of the country.

IRAQI MUSLIMS DESTROY SAUDI AMMUNITION TRUCKS

LD241014 Tehran IRNA in English 0943 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 23 Feb (IRNA) -- Iraqi Muslim strugglers today destroyed at least 30 truck loads of ammunition as these arrived in the city of Safwan from Saudi Arabia.

Announcement published in Iraq by the Islamic Ad-Da'wah Party, said that the said trucks were carrying Saudi ammunition for the Baghdad regime. Iraqi mujahidin reportedly attacked the arriving trucks in the border city, using hand-made bombs and dynamite, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers. Members of the mujahidin immediately distributed leaflets on the spot and later returned to their bases safely.

AFP: COMMANDER EXECUTED FOR AIDING MOJAHEDIN

NC231949 Paris AFP in English 1943 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Tehran, 23 Feb (AFP) -- An Iranian Army batallion commander has been executed in Shiraz, southern Iran, for "giving TNT to the Mojahedin," the major leftist opposition movement to the Khomeyni regime, the newspaper ETTELA'AT reported today.

Two members of the People's Mojahedin were also executed in Shiraz for taking part in "military operations" against the government, the paper said.

REBELS 'CRUSHED' IN WEST AZARBAYJAN VILLAGE

LD232228 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Tehran, 23 Feb (IRNA) -- A number of counterrevolutionary armed elements were crushed in their attempt to infiltrate the (Saray Malek) village near Salmas, in West Azarbayjan Province, on Monday. The operational headquarters of the northwest, announcing this to IRNA adding that none of the Islamic soldiers were hurt in this clash. [sentence as received]

MOJAHEDIN'S RAJAVI SEEKS INFORMATION ON CHILD

NC241713 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 24 Feb 82

[Text] The Mojahedin-e Khalq organization has asked for help from world foundations in gaining information on the fate of four children of members of the said organization. In a Mojahedin-e Khalq statement, it is stated that in the incident that led to the murder of Musa Khiabani, his wife and the wife of Mas'ud Rajavi, Rajavi's 1-year-old child fell into the hands of the regime's revolution guards and that no information is available on the fate of this child or the fate of three other children of this organization's members. This has been revealed after Asadollah Lajevardi had announced on Tehran television that Rajavi's child has been handed over to his grandfather -- Rajavi's father -- to be brought up according to Islamic laws and to become a Hezbollahi in the future.

The publication of the Mojahedin-e Khalq of Iran statement shows that, contrary to Asadollah Lajevardi's claims, Rajavi's child has not been handed over to his grandfather.

NVOI URGES COOPERATION WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

TA241818 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Justice Seekers Must Unite in a Single Rank"]

[Excerpt] Dear compatriots: Mr Velayati, our homeland's minister of foreign affairs, in an interview with CUMHURIYET newspaper, published in Istanbul, while referring to our Islamic Republic's readiness in granting all-out support for the liberation movement of the Palestinian people and the Arabs in the face of Israel's aggression, said: We do not wish to have any kind of relationship with the United States, which pursues a policy of aggression and provocation against Iran.

Mr Velayati, our homeland's minister of foreign affairs, then referred to our country's relations with the Soviet Union and pointed out: As for our northern neighbor, the Soviet Union, our relations with this country are good and are on the basis of neighborliness and mutual and equal political and economic cooperation.

Our aware nation and all realistic leaders of the Islamic Republic, even before the victory of their destiny-making revolution, through experience and in practice had come to believe in the fact that the Soviet Union and all socialist countries, the great labor movement and national liberation movements were supporting our nation's revolutionary movement with all their might.

Following the revolution's victory, official representatives of socialist countries, by presenting specific proposals to former Iranian officials and governments for technical, economic and commercial cooperation on the basis of respect for Iran's national sovereignty and independence and mutual benefits, declared their readiness for large-scale cooperation with our Islamic Republic.

However, each time the specific and beneficial proposals of the socialist countries, particularly those of the Soviet Union, met with the overt obstructions of the government of the railroading U.S. liberals.

Simultaneously with rejecting any kind of proposal for healthy and beneficial cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries they unleashed a powerful propaganda campaign against the Soviet Union on the basis of the prescriptions of the CIA and the British intelligence service. According to the imam they raised the issue of the Soviet Union in order to negate America.

There is no doubt that our liberated homeland, by possessing great resources of national wealth and the eternal talent of the million-strong masses should, above all, overcome the problems inherited from the sinister and overthrown regime and the difficulties arising from the plots of world-devouring America and the counterrevolution by relying on itself and its own capabilities.

There is also no doubt that healthy and beneficial economic, commercial and technical cooperation with every country that sincerely supports our revolution and Islamic Republic and which respects our national sovereignty and independence could shorten the painful transition period of the current industrial and agricultural difficulties, particularly at a time when the United States and its Western allies are endeavoring to keep our Islamic Republic in a state of dependence and economic backwardness for an indefinite period.